GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:348
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2005
AREA OF WASTE LAND
Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the area of waste land in the country, State-wise;

(b) the area of waste land developed so far;

(c) the area of waste land converted into cultivable land during each of the last three years:

(d) the programme formulated in this regard during the current financial year by National Waste Land Development Board; and

(e) the details of action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a)to(e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 348 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 16.12.2005

(a) According to the Wastelands Atlas of India, published in 2005 by the Department of Land Resources in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency, the total waste land in the country is 552.69 lakh ha. State-wise details of waste lands are given in Annexure-I.

(b) Land treated under the area development programmes of the Department of Land Resources and the schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture is about 268.10 lakh ha. according to the details given in Annexure-II.

(c) Under the area development programmes of the Department of Land Resources of the Ministry of Rural Development funds are provided for the treatment of waste land, drought proofing and checking desertification, on watershed basis. These programmes cover degraded land, pastures and forest land falling within the watershed. Similarly, Ministry of Agriculture provides funds for the treatment of problem lands under its four schemes. The physical achievements under these programmes for the last three years are given in Annexure-III. When completed, these schemes will lead to a reduction in the area considered waste land. However, all this treated area does not come under cultivation. Some of it goes towards increase in forest cover, pasture land, other non-agricultural uses, etc.

(d) and (e) After the transfer of the National Wasteland Development Board (NWDB) to the Ministry of Rural Development, it was renamed as the Department of Land Resources for the implementation of all area development programmes of the Ministry. During the current financial year i.e. 2005-06, 340 IWDP projects covering an area of 16.318 lakh hectares in 28 States, 3000 DPAP projects covering an area of 15.00 lakh hectares and 2000 DDP projects covering an area of 10.00 lakh hectares in the identified blocks of programme districts/States, have been sanctioned by the Department of Land Resources so far. State-wise and Programme-wise details are given in Annexure-IV.